

Site 15: Spring-Ford School District

BMPs:

- Basin Retrofit
- Rain Garden (proposed)
- Swale Buffers/Meadow areas

In 2007, the Montgomery County Conservation District in partnership with the School District obtained grant funding through the Schuylkill Watershed Initiative Grant program and Tree Vitalize Watersheds. The funding was used to retrofit the High School's 65 acre drainage area stormwater basin to provide extended storage and water quality benefits. A series of four water quality berms were installed which provide opportunity for extended detention and groundwater recharge. The basin was seeded with a meadow mix, and the Spring-Ford High School Environmental Science students planted the trees and shrubs.

At the 5th-6th Center, GLOBE students planted buffers along the swales which convey drainage from the rooftop and parking areas to the Mingo Creek. The areas are delineated with fencing and a no mow zone has been established. In Fall, 2008 a rain garden is proposed to be installed in a parking island to pre-treat run-off from impervious areas and provide opportunity for groundwater recharge.

Address: 350 S. Lewis Road
Royersford, PA

Property owner: Spring-Ford School District

Website: <http://www.spring-ford.net/>

Watershed: Schuylkill River

Planning your visit: Visitors are welcome to view the stormwater management BMPs at any time. The stormwater basin is located at 350 S. Lewis Road and the swales and rain garden are located at 833 S. Lewis Road.

Contact Info:
Spring-Ford School District
(610) 705-6000

Parking: Parking is available in the visitors parking lot.



The photo shows the basin condition one year after implementation.

Taken shortly after construction the photo illustrates water quality berms providing stormwater retention.





Students from the Environmental Science class planted 235 native trees and shrubs. They are performing water quality monitoring at the inflow and outflow of the basin. The students are monitoring changes in water chemistry between the water that enters the basin and what is leaving the basin.



Pre-implementation Condition

Prior to the basin retrofit, the stormwater basin was managed as a mowed turf landscape. This type of management requires regular mowing. The shallow rooted turf does not maximize groundwater recharge capabilities. By converting the basin to meadow vegetation, the recharge capabilities improved by as much as 30% from a conventional turfgrass basin. Managing the basin in a meadow condition also allows for improved filtration of the stormwater runoff and increased evapotranspiration.